

We will be ready to serve. However, we will retain our readiness only if we continue to honor and respect those who paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we could live to serve America and perpetuate the ideals she represents.

THE UNDERWATER ADVENTURE SEEKERS CELEBRATE THEIR FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite the Members of this body to join me in saluting the Underwater Adventure Seekers (UAS) as they celebrate forty years in the District of Columbia.

UAS was established in the District of Columbia on February 25, 1959 for the purpose of offering water safety and skin and SCUBA diving training to African-Americans in the metropolitan area during a period in this country's development when such training was not available to African-Americans or other minorities through the usual industry venues.

UAS is and always has been, an organization that welcomes people of all backgrounds. It has trained more than 1,700 people in the sports of skin and SCUBA diving. Additionally, UAS contributes thousands of hours of volunteer service to the community by sponsoring field trips for marine science students at the University of the District of Columbia; providing 2-year scholarships in marine science or oceanography to District residents; providing instruction in swimming and other water activities for persons of all ages; and providing safety divers for the President's Cup Regatta. The UAS also provides rescue divers to assist federal and local agencies during emergencies when there is a critical need for trained, experienced divers.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the achievements and commitment of the UAS to promoting water safety, conserving aquatic life, and providing services to the citizens of the District of Columbia.

IN HONOR OF WORCESTER COUNTY SHERIFF JOHN "MIKE" FLYNN

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true legend in Massachusetts politics, Worcester County Sheriff John "Mike" Flynn. On Sunday, April 11, Sheriff Flynn was honored at the Grafton Democratic Town Committee's Froment-Moroney Memorial Breakfast, where he was presented the Froment-Moroney Leadership by Action award.

Mr. Speaker, in many ways the name of that award sums up Mike Flynn—Leadership by Action. Sheriff Flynn has been an integral part of the Worcester County Sheriff's Department for 36 years, and in that time he has helped the Department become a model for effective corrections and law enforcement policy. In

1973, Sheriff Flynn was involved in the planning, construction and successful occupancy of the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction in West Boylston. In 1990, he oversaw the planning and construction of a 300-bed modular facility. He currently supervises a staff of over 650, many of whom are veterans.

Indeed, Sheriff Flynn himself served his country in the military, earning distinction in World War II in the Asian-Pacific Theater. By risking his life for our freedom, Mike Flynn displayed true leadership by action.

Beyond his duties as Sheriff, Mike Flynn has been extraordinarily active in volunteer and community service. In addition to his involvement with the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Sheriff Flynn has dedicated his time, his energy and his very big heart to the Mercy Center, a facility for developmentally handicapped children in our community. Through his work, the difficult lives of these young people have been made less difficult. I cannot think of a better definition of leadership, not just by action, but by compassion and decency.

Mike Flynn has a favorite expression—"Only in America." Only in America could the son of a steamfitter get such a tremendous opportunity to serve his family, his community, and his country. Sheriff Flynn has seized that opportunity and made the most of it.

Through all of this, Mike's wife Joan has been an invaluable partner and companion. Their six children and four grandchildren provide them with immense joy, and Sheriff Flynn would be the first to tell you that family always comes first.

Mr. Speaker, I know the entire House joins me in congratulating Worcester County Sheriff Mike Flynn on receiving the Froment-Moroney Leadership by Action award and for his decades of public service.

HONORING THE CAMPANIA CLUB FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to congratulate the Campania Club of New Haven on its 85th Anniversary. An Italian-American organization, the Campania Club has been a tremendous asset to the New Haven community since its inception in 1914.

Founded by a small group of Italian immigrants, members have worked to promote strong family values. These values—love for family and friends, the importance of giving to others, a commitment to hard work are the foundation upon which our community stands. These are the values passed on from generation to generation. Though it began as a small neighborhood gathering, the Campania Club has grown and developed into an integral part of the foundation on which the New Haven Italian-American community stands. The Italian neighborhood where I grew up was a place where people knew each other, and looked out for each other. It's great to see that things haven't changed.

The strength and integrity of the club lies in the character and commitment of its members,

and the historical list of club members' names, past and present, are a true reflection of the quality of the Campania Club. Over the years, membership lists have included many local officials and personalities including former Mayor William C. Celantano, as well as his brother 1967 Man of the Year, Dr. Luca Celantano. Local personalities included Packy DeFonzo and Joseph DeGale for whom the DeGale Trophy was named. Considering a major award in the athletic field, for years the DeGale Trophy was presented to an outstanding city athlete. As the organization has grown, Club members continue to serve the community by supporting a variety of service organizations, including the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, as well as local businesses and sports teams. It is this type of dedication that has kept alive the close-knit New Haven Italian community, passing on the legacy and traditions to the next generation.

The Campania Club has strived to promote family values while continuing to foster a proud Italian heritage. It is with great pride that I stand before you today to honor the Campania Club and its members for 85 years of outstanding service to the New Haven community.

"MY SERVICE TO AMERICA"

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to recognize and honor Eleanor Forbes. She is the recipient of the 1998-1999 VFW Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition. Eleanor wrote a very moving and patriotic account of American democracy. I ask that the text of her script be inserted into the RECORD in its entirety at the completion of my remarks. Once again, I am proud to recognize Ms. Eleanor Forbes.

"MY SERVICE TO AMERICA"—1998-1999 VFW
VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP COM-
PETITION

(Pennsylvania Winner—Eleanor Forbes)

The voice you hear now is the voice of an American, a proud American. This same voice pledges allegiance to our flag every morning, and sings proudly along with our national anthem when it is played. I am fifteen years old. I do not have the resources to go out and change the world. I do not have the money to give to all my fellow Americans who need it, nor am I old enough to run for president or serve my country in a war. But these are not the only ways I can serve my country. My service to America is expressed in many other ways.

America has provided me with numerous opportunities for which I am grateful. I have the opportunities of education, participation in athletics, work, art and music, among other things. It is my duty as an American to grasp these opportunities firmly now, in my teenage years, so that I can give back to my country later in life. I owe it to America to be the best student I can be, to learn how to write and speak properly, to spell correctly, and to read the intricate works of the great American writers. I must learn to appreciate the artistic and musical works of the great American artists, and learn mathematics, science and history. It is my duty to visit the numerous places that make up American history books; to climb the steep

steps of the Statue of Liberty and feel the warmth of heart that the immigrants felt when they first arrived in America. I need to look at the Liberty Bell with glistening eyes and understand its full meaning. To be a good American in the future, I must learn, understand, and accept all of America's past.

Right now, the opportunities to serve my country are limited, but are, by no means, small. For the land itself, I recycle, I put trash in the trashcans to keep our streets clean. I plant trees to keep our environment healthy. For my fellow citizens I keep myself clean and presentable, I work hard for my money, and buy American products. I do not judge others in an unjust manner, if at all. I abide by the great laws of the country, and I keep myself up to date with the current affairs of America. After all the opportunities and services that America will have provided me by the time I am twenty years old, I will be obliged, not by law but by choice, to give back. I feel that the best way to help America is to help others in the name of my country. I am provided with such an opportunity by organizations like the Peace Corps. Then, in my adult years, I shall be fully prepared to choose a job that will help fellow Americans. I shall work honestly, hard, and be a good citizen. I shall vote and pay my taxes on time. All these things may seem small and trivial to some, but to me, they are ways I can give back to a country that has given so much to me.

America is truly the land of opportunity. My service to America is to grab all the opportunity that is thrown my way and make the most out of it, so that later in my life as an American I am able and ready to provide such an opportunity for others.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIE L. STRAIN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. William L. Strain, Assistant Director of the Communications Department at the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service. On March 31, Mr. Strain retired from the extension service after 45 years and two months of service.

Mr. Strain is a native of Morgan County, Alabama and a graduate of Morgan City Training School in Hartselle, Alabama. He graduated with honors from Tuskegee Institute where he received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees. He also completed his Master of Science degree in Agricultural Journalism at the University of Wisconsin. In addition to Mr. Strain's academic accomplishments, he served his country as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

In 1958, Mr. Strain served the people of Alabama as an Assistant Negro County Agent in Butler County. He went on to serve similar positions in Coosa and Tuscaloosa Counties respectively. In 1971, he served as the plaintiff in the civil action landmark court case *Strain vs. Philpot*, which establish the tone to bring about equal opportunity for Extension minority employees and clients, throughout Alabama and the rest of the nation.

Ever since that landmark case, Mr. Strain continued to dedicate his life to improvements in the Extension Service. He served as a member of numerous professional associa-

tions and has received many awards for his outstanding leadership in higher education, development of community relations and professional involvement in local, state and national levels.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I want to add that I am honored to stand here today and congratulate Mr. Willie Strain. He was a trailblazer in his field and paved the way for many African-Americans.

GALBRAITH A.M.E. ZION CHURCH CELEBRATES ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX YEARS, 1843-1999

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the officers, members, and friends of the Galbraith African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church for "156 Years of Charting Our Legacy Through Spirituality With an Unchangeable God."

Mr. Speaker, Galbraith A.M.E. Zion Church was organized before slavery was abolished and while the city of Washington was still in its infancy. The church grew out of the efforts of the late Bishop Singleton T. Jones, then pastor of the Zion Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church in Southwest Washington. He extended the borders of Zion by establishing a mission in the northwest section of the city. In 1843, with a meeting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Payne on New Avenue, Northwest, between Fourth and Fifth Streets, the mission was established. Rev. Singleton T. Jones preached the sermon. Professor R.H. Dyson, Chorister of the then noted Clintonian Songsters, furnished the music. Six members joined the mission—Father and Mrs. Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Payne, and two other individuals whose names have been lost in history. Rev. Richard Tompkins, a local preacher from Zion Wesley Church, was appointed to take charge and served for approximately ten months.

The Mission struggled and fluctuated for a period of eight years until its reorganization in 1852, under the leadership of Rev. R.H.G. Dyson. The success of the Mission at this time was due primarily to the efforts and determination of Father and Mrs. Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. Payne, and Mr. Julius Warren, the Assistant Class Leader to Rev. Dyson. The first building, a room 8 feet by 20 feet, was erected by Mr. Payne and was used for Sunday School and preaching services on Sunday, and for day school taught by Miss Martha Ross. As there were few facilities for the education of Black children in those days, the church served a double purpose.

After only two months, the church became too small for the congregation. Mr. Payne stretched a number of tents in the rear of the building, providing accommodations for three hundred people. In 1853, because of the danger and lack of protection from a band of lawless white men, who amused themselves by stoning the tents during services, Mr. Payne erected another home for the mission with two stories.

Upon the recommendation of Presiding Elder J.H. Hammer, Rev. Dyson joined the Annual Conference May, 1853, and was again sent to the Mission. In the fall of 1852, a lot

was purchased on L Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets, Northwest for \$225.00. The owner, Dr. Hall, donated \$25.00 for the purchase price, and Brothers Julius Warren and Payne each paid \$25.00 for a deed of trust. Mr. Naylor, a builder and contractor, agreed to build a church for a reasonable sum to be paid in small amounts. The cornerstone was laid in 1853, the first to be laid by the Colored Masons of Washington. Rev. Dyson selected the name "Galbraith A.M.E. Zion Chapel" in memory of Bishop George Galbraith. The dedication was March 1854.

Mr. Speaker, this city is grateful for the spiritual guidance and the progressive leadership of the current pastor, Rev. Frederick B. Massey, Sr., and those who preceded him, coupled with the cooperation of the officers and members of Galbraith A.M.E. Zion Church.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JANE ZEIS, IN CELEBRATION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM THE OTTAWA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a very special tribute to one of the truly outstanding individuals from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Jane Zeis. On Friday, April 30, 1999, Jane Zeis will retire from her position as Clerk at the Ottawa County Board of Elections.

Jane Zeis is truly a committed employee and a valuable asset to the Ottawa County Board of Elections. Having started as a part-time employee in early January of 1978, Jane worked diligently as Ottawa County began to register its voters, and very soon thereafter was hired to a permanent, full-time position. Her dedicated efforts and outstanding contributions over the past twenty-one years have enabled Ottawa County to have one of the best Boards of Elections in the state of Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, Jane Zeis embodies the very spirit of American workmanship through her conscientious attention to detail. In doing her job of processing changes of address, absentee balloting, and ensuring the country's precinct maps are up-to-date, among many others, Jane has performed utterly wonderfully. Her meticulous organizational skills and motivation have produced a thorough and complete county planning commission guide including precinct, school, and congressional district information.

Mr. Speaker, it has often been said that America succeeds due to the remarkable accomplishments and contributions of her citizens. It is very evident that Jane Zeis has given freely of her time and energy to assist in the preservation of American ideals. Our electoral process is the backbone of our nation, and those individuals, like Jane Zeis, who worked hard to make that system free and democratic are true American patriots.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Jane Zeis. On the occasion of her retirement from the Ottawa County Board of Elections, we thank her for her service and we wish her all the best in the future.